



ALEX PADILLA
California Secretary of State

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

June 27, 2017

MEDIA ADVISORY

Secretary of State Alex Padilla to Deliver Keynote Speech at Sacramento Citizenship Ceremony

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Alex Padilla will deliver the keynote speech at a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) naturalization ceremony at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium **Wednesday, June 28**. Secretary Padilla will be encouraging the new citizens to register to vote and be active participants in America’s democracy.

“I often tell people, if you have never been to a citizenship ceremony, you should. It is a moving experience full of hope, pride and joy. To see individuals raise their right hand and pledge their allegiance, you are witnessing them as they realize a dream. It is a powerful reminder of what our nation is all about. I will never get tired of attending these ceremonies,” said Secretary of State Padilla.

998 new citizens are expected to take the Oath of Allegiance at this ceremony.

Secretary Padilla's parents emigrated from Mexico and raised their family in the working class community of Pacoima, California. His father worked as a short order cook and his mother cleaned houses. Padilla attended local public schools and went on to graduate from Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Padilla served as a Los Angeles City Council member from 1999 to 2006 and as a California State Senator from 2006 to 2014 before being sworn in as California Secretary of State on January 5, 2015.

USCIS is asking new citizens and their families and friends to share the ceremony experience and photos via Twitter using the hashtag #newUSCitizen.

Media are welcome to cover this event, and to approach new citizens for interviews.

WHO: Secretary of State Alex Padilla

WHEN: Wednesday, June 28, 2017
10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Sacramento Memorial Auditorium
1515 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

NOTE: TV cameras should be set up by 9:30 AM. Secretary Padilla will be available for interviews prior to the ceremony.

CONTACTS: **Secretary Padilla: Jesse Melgar or Sam Mahood, (916) 653-6575**
USCIS: Sharon Rummery
(415)248-8873 (Office); (415)987-0191 (cell)

###

Follow the California Secretary of State on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).